



*Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut*

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**TESTIMONY OF
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

April 9, 2007

Senate Joint No.32, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Concerning the Practices and Procedures of the Courts

The Office of Chief Public Defender is opposed to *Senate Joint 32, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Concerning the Practices and Procedures of the Courts*. The Connecticut State Constitution was designed to provide a system of checks and balances among our three branches of government. An independent judiciary, free from political pressures, has always been regarded as fundamental to a democratic society and an important protection for Connecticut citizens.

Senate Joint 32 would serve to undermine the independence of Connecticut's judiciary by removing their rule-making authority and placing it within the authority of the Legislative Branch. While legislators have the authority to make the laws, judges should continue to have the independence to fairly and impartially interpret the law and enact rules of court without the influence of the Executive or Legislative Branch.